



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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IM Technical Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Technical Committee (IMTC) met in Helena on Fri., Feb. 22. Several guests and members participated via web casting, a tool that has enhanced the group's ability to obtain meeting quorums. IM Project Director (IMPD) Chair Alan Michaels officially appointed Bob McWilliams as the new chair of the IMTC, and he accepted the appointment. The IMTC then elected Ray Hetherington as the new Vice Chair.

Sub-committee reports began with the Frequency Sub-Committee. Chair Scott Bradford who thanked Wing Spooner, Dale Osborne and Ray Hetherington for their work on the Frequency RFP. Three companies have been identified for term contracts. Names will be released as soon as the proper paperwork is in place. Scott updated the group on the status of current frequency applications and Letters of Concurrence (LOCs). Various problems were explained and troubleshooting efforts described.

Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol, reported on recent Encryption Sub-Committee activities, which have included active involvement with four different counties to adopt the statewide encryption plan. Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, explained a new numbering system for the network design that provides circuit and T-1 information. For the Dispatch Connectivity Sub-Committee, Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reported that Motorola is working on the Hill County TrESAP and the Blaine County dispatch center.

The IMTC then reviewed a list of System Administrator Duties, and formally adopted a prioritized list of activities. In other business, the committee discussed generator specifications and differentiated differences between residential and commercial features. The IMTC also formally approved having Motorola move forward with the design and manufacture of equipment for Antoine Butte, Blue, Blacktail, Divide, Jette, Kalispell Water Tower and Saco sites.

Considerable time was spent conducting a final review and making modifications to the Subscriber Unit Qualification/Acceptance Criteria document. Scott Bradford reported that he and Jack Spillman were asked to compile a list of subscriber unit acceptance criteria to ensure that radios will be compatible with the IM system. Scott received and

incorporated several recommendations to the document. It is in the best interest of the State of Montana to have multiple radio vendors, but the radios must perform appropriately on the system. Vendors will be requested to certify that their products meet the criteria. Operational testing of the radios will take place on the Lewis and Clark system. Dale Osborne and the Montana Highway Patrol were named as the responsible parties for implementing testing.

The next face-to-face IMTC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24.

Beaverhead County Federal Meetings

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

On Feb.19, representatives from Beaverhead County, State of Montana and the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project met with representatives from the United States Forest Services and Bureau of Land Management in Dillon. The purpose of the meeting was to define the project scope and outline the details of federal processes that need to be completed to allow Beaverhead County and the IM Project to utilize five sites in southwest Montana.

The sites are scheduled to be developed as part of the IM microwave network pending federal approval of Montana's Public Safety Interoperability Communications (PSIC) grant investment justifications. Required steps and timelines were established for processing environmental assessments and communication plans. Pending completion of these steps, it is anticipated that work on several of the sites may begin this year.

Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Information

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The application period for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) begins March 3 at 8:00 am Eastern Daylight Time (EST) with the deadline for receipt of applications no later than April 4, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. Grant funds will be distributed in phases throughout the year. Approximately \$500 million in grants will be awarded.

The AFG application may be accessed through the AFG website at: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>. The site contains important information about funding priorities, program guidance, tutorials about



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the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions, and other materials.

The PSSB is available to assist with applications for interoperable communications equipment that is compatible with the IM Project.

Save the Dates

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Mark your calendars! The IM Project is hosting a retreat at the end of the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 24 and 25 at the Holiday Inn in Billings. County Commissioners, fire chiefs and other opinion leaders are encouraged to attend. National Governor's Association facilitators will assist with the retreat. Look for more information in the HAM!

The 2008 Montana APCO Conference is scheduled for October 22-23 in Billings at the Billings Hotel. Additionally, APCO International's popular Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications course has been scheduled for October 21 at the same location to coincide with the conference. Watch for details on the Montana APCO web site: <http://www.mtapco.org>.

Upcoming Meetings

March 3

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive

March 3

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

March 4

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

March 5

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am • Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

March 6

Northern Tier (NTIP)
Havre • 10:00 am • Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

March 12

Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)
Helena • 10:00 am - Noon • Rm. 152, State Capitol

March 13

South Central MT Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC)
White Sulphur Springs • 10:00 am
White Sulfur Springs Training Center (Next to the Sheriff's Office 101, W. Crawford St.)

March 14

Four-State 9-1-1 Confab
Bowman, ND • 10:00 am
Bowman County Courthouse, 104 1st Street NW

March 20

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am
Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

March 26

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)
Miles City • 10:00 am
4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds, Old Highway 10

March 27

Big Sky 11 • Billings • 10:00 am
Location to be announced